(iii) H.E. Mr. Zhu Rongji, Premier of the State Council of the people's Republic of China, January 13-18, 2002

(iv) H.E. Mr. Cassam Uteem, President of Mauritius, January 24 to February 2, 2002

Visits by Foreign Ministers

(i) Dr. Abdullah Abdullah, Foreign Minister designate of Afghanistan, December 12-19, 2001

(ii) Mr. Shimon Peres, Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister of Israel, January 7-9, 2002

(iii) Dr. David Manley, Deputy Prime Minister of Canada, January 20—22, 2002

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO UNSTARRED QUESTIONS

Disbursal of loans by KVIC

754. SHRI C.P. THIRUNAVUKKARASU: Will the Minister of AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Khadi and Village Industries Commission is granting loan to provide employment to persons from weaker section through Khadi Boards; and

(b) if so, the amount distributed and persons benefited during the last two years, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES (SHRI KARIYA MUNDA): (a) The Khadi and Village Industries Commission (KVIC) has not been conceived as a financial institution.The institutions are encouraged to take loans from the nationalised Banks.

(b) Does not arise.

Production of handmade paper

755. DR. DASARI NARAYANA RAO: Will the Minister of AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether KVIC has any action plan to promote production of hand made paper in Andhra Pradesh which is very popular abroad;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) what incentives are being extended to the producers of handmade paper in the State?

THE MINISTER OF AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES (SHRI KARIYA MUNDA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) A project for establishment of a Common Facility Centre (CFC) for promotion of handmade paper industry in the district of Mahboobnagar has been taken up under UNDP-KVIC Project. The CFC is expected to serve the common needs of local handmade paper manufacturing units for enhancing their production, quality control marketing and also to develop new entrepreneurs by imparting training for establishment of handmade paper units in the state.

(c) The following incentives are available to the handmade paper producers all over the country, including Andhra Pradesh:—

(i) Excise Exemption.

(ii) Margin Money Subsidy under Rural Employment Generation Programme (REGP).

Subsidies to Khadi producers

756. SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA: Will the Minister of AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) the production capacity and demand of Khadi;

(b) what steps have been taken by government to promote its export; and

(c) whether there is any plan to provide subsidies to the Khadi producers?

THE MINISTER OF AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES (SHRI KARIYA MUNDA): (a) The production capacity and demand of Khadi Industry as on 31-3-2001 is as under:

Sl.No.	Estimated Production	Capacity Actual	Producton Reported
1.	Yarn-Qty (Million Kgs)	2.96	2.59
	Value (Rs. in Crores)	183.60	192.94
2.	Cloth-Qty (Million Sq. Mtrs.)	7.41	7.53
	Value (Rs. in Crores)	459.33	465.17

Demand of Khadi Industry—Rs. 570.55 crores